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17 August 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Information Handling Committee

FROM: Clarus W. Rice
CIA Member, Information Handling Committee

SUBJECT: RECON GUARD Prototype Evaluation

REFERENCES: A. Memo for D/OCR and D/ODP fm D/OS, dtd 20 Jul 84,
Subj: Testing of the RECON GUARD Prototype,
OSO-4-5280

B. MFR from D/OCR, dtd 18 Jul 84, Subj: Evaluation
of RECON GUARD

C. Memo for Multiple Addressees from [redacted]
[redacted] ORD, dtd 18 Jul 84, Subj: RECON/GUARD
Program Status Report, ORD-0832-84

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1. The cited CIA references summarize the successful testing of the RECON GUARD Prototype System by the Offices of Data Processing, Security, Research and Development, and Central Reference. In summary, the primary objective of the GUARD Prototype evaluation was to prove or disprove the hardware architectural design principles for the secure release of information from a host computer.

2. The research approach was to place the GUARD in the worst possible environment. To accomplish this goal, simulators were built for the data base (RECON) and network (COINS) environments. With this configuration, any combination of errors could be injected by the test teams to defeat the GUARD. The actual tests conducted by the teams are included in the references and show that the GUARD Prototype always acted securely.

3. The success of the GUARD Prototype System should be kept in perspective by carefully reviewing the caveats expressed in the references. As examples, the limited size of test data bases (2000 records); data throughput issues; retrospective input costs associated with indexing pre-1983; and security issues on the data entry side of the GUARD and the data release side. References A and B underscore the requirement for retesting any Operational GUARD System and the network security issues.

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separated from references

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4. At this point, the Information Handling Committee can expect that an Operational Guard System, built on the same hardware architectural principles, will also prove secure when tested. Therefore, I make the following recommendations to the Committee:

- The IHC should monitor the effort through the more critical phases.
- The IHC should review and prioritize the potential Intelligence Community applications that require this capability to be implemented.
- The IHC should select the most appropriate application. The Committee must obtain the approvals and the resources needed to make the application operational for Community use.
- The IHC should initiate actions to evaluate network security for the selected application. Further, resources should be requested for any network upgrades.

5. As suggested by the RECON GUARD Project Manager, actions have been initiated to return the Prototype System to the contractor's facilities and the COINS equipment to the COINS PMO. If you have any questions, please call [redacted] on CIA's Office of Data Processing on extension [redacted]

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Clarus W. Rice

DI/D/OCR/CWRice:arb [redacted] (16 Aug 1984)

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